

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A fat composition comprising:

(A) a fat containing at least 15% by weight of diglycerides;

(B) a fatty acid L-ascorbic ester; and

(C) at least one component selected from among catechin, sage extract and turmeric extract.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein component (C) is a catechin having an ash content of at most 5% by weight.

Claim 3 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, which further comprises silicone.

Claim 4 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein said fat is selected from the group consisting of vegetable oil, animal oil, hardened oils, fractionated oils, random transesterified oils thereof and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein said fat is selected from the group consisting of soybean oil, rapeseed oil, palm oil, rice oil, corn oil, beef tallow, fish oil, hardened oils, fractionated oils, random transesterified oils thereof and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is selected from the group consisting of L-ascorbyl palmitate, L-ascorbyl stearate and a mixture thereof.

Claim 7 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is present in an amount of at least 0.006 wt. %.

Claim 8 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is present in an amount of 0.01 to 0.05 wt. %.

Claim 9 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is present in an amount of 0.02 to 0.04 wt. %.

Claim 10 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein component (C) is a catechin selected from the group consisting of epicatechin, epigallocatechin, epicatechin gallate, epigallocatechin gallate and a mixture thereof.

Claim 11 (Original): The fat composition of claim 10, wherein said catechin is present in an amount of at least 0.004 wt %.

Claim 12 (Original): The fat composition of claim 10, wherein said catechin is present in an amount of 0.008 to 0.08 wt. %.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (currently amended): The fat composition of claim ~~21~~ 22, wherein component (C) is a rosemary extract or a sage extract present in an amount of 500 to 3,500 ppm.

Claim 15 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein component (C) is a turmeric extract present in an amount of 50 to 1,000 ppm.

Claim 16 (Original): The fat composition of claim 15, wherein said turmeric extract is present in an amount of 100 to 1,000 ppm.

Claim 17 (Original): The fat composition of claim 1, wherein said catechin and said fatty acid L-ascorbate ester are used, in a weight ratio of 0.03 to 3.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): ~~The fat composition of claim 21,~~

A fat composition comprising:

(A) a fat containing at least 15% by weight of diglycerides;

(B) a fatty acid L-ascorbic ester; and

(C) at least one component selected from among rosemary extract and sage extract present in an amount of 200 to 5,000 ppm

wherein said rosemary extract or sage extract and said fatty acid L-ascorbate ester are used in a weight ratio of 1 to 20.

Claim 19 (Currently amended) The fat composition of claim 21 1 wherein component (C) is turmeric extract and said turmeric extract and said fatty acid L-ascorbate ester are used in a weight ratio of 0.1 to 5.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of producing a confectionary selected from the group consisting of fried rice, fried wheat, fried corn, fried potato, fried sweet potato ~~type~~, ~~fried potato~~, fried chicken, fries, doughnut, instant noodles comprising heating a

confectionary selected from the group consisting of rice, wheat, corn, potato, sweet potato, chicken, dough, in the fat composition of claim 1.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously amended) A fat composition comprising:

(A) a fat containing at least 15% by weight of diglycerides;

(B) 0.006 wt.% or more of a fatty acid L-ascorbic ester;

(C) at least one component selected from among at least 0.004 wt.% of catechin, 200-5000 ppm of rosemary extract, 200-5000 ppm of sage extract and 50-1000 ppm of turmeric extract; and

(D) 0.00003 wt.% or more of silicone.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): The fat composition of claim ~~21~~ 22, wherein said fat is selected from the group consisting of vegetable oil, animal oil, hardened oils, fractionated oils, random transesterified oils thereof and mixtures thereof.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The fat composition of claim ~~21~~ 22, wherein said fat is selected from the group consisting of soybean oil, rapeseed oil, palm oil, rice oil, corn oil, beef tallow, fish oil, hardened oils, fractionated oils, random transesterified oils thereof and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (canceled):

Claim 27 (currently amended): ~~The fat composition of claim 21~~

A fat composition comprising:

(A) a fat containing at least 15% by weight of diglycerides;

(B) a fatty acid L-ascorbic ester; and

(C) at least one component selected from among rosemary extract and sage extract

present in an amount of 200 to 5,000 ppm.,

wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is present in an amount of at least 0.006 wt.

%.

Claim 28 (currently amended): ~~The fat composition of claim 21~~

A fat composition comprising:

(A) a fat containing at least 15% by weight of diglycerides;

(B) a fatty acid L-ascorbic ester; and

(C) at least one component selected from among rosemary extract and sage extract

present in an amount of 200 to 5,000 ppm,

wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is present in an amount of 0.01 to 0.05 wt.%.

Claim 29 (currently amended): ~~The fat composition of claim 21~~

A fat composition comprising:

(A) a fat containing at least 15% by weight of diglycerides;

(B) a fatty acid L-ascorbic ester; and

(C) at least one component selected from among rosemary extract and sage extract

present in an amount of 200 to 5,000 ppm,

wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is present in an amount of 0.02 to 0.04 wt.%.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method of producing a confectionary selected from the group consisting of fried rice, fried wheat, fried corn, fried potato, fried sweet potato ~~type~~, ~~fried potato~~, fried chicken, fries, doughnut, instant noodles comprising heating a confectionary selected from the group consisting of rice, wheat, corn, potato, sweet potato, chicken, dough, in the fat composition of claim ~~21~~ 22.

Claim 31 (new) The fat composition of claim 22, wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is selected from the group consisting of L-ascorbyl palmitate, L-ascorbyl stearate and a mixture thereof.

Claim 32 (new) The fat composition of claim 22, wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is present in an amount of 0.01 to 0.05 wt.%.

Claim 33 (new) The fat composition of claim 22, wherein said fatty acid L-ascorbic ester is present in an amount of 0.02 to 0.04 wt.%.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for the amendment to claims 18, and 27-29 is found in claim 21 as originally presented. Support for the amendment to claim 19 is found in claims 1 and 19 as originally presented. Support for claims 31-33 is found on page 4, lines 10-16 of the specification. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-12, 14-20, 22, 24-25 and 27-33 will now be active in this application.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Paden for indicating that Claims 1-12, 15-17, 20 and 22 are allowed. Applicants also wish to thank examiner Paden for indicating that claims 18, 19 and 27-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have now rewritten Claims 18 and 27-29 in independent form including all of the limitations of parent claim 21. Claim 19 has been amended to be dependent on claim 15, already indicated as allowed by the examiner.

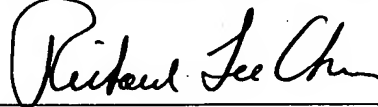
As to claims 14, 23-25 and 30 these claims have been amended to depend from claim 22, already allowed by the examiner. Claims 23 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice to their further prosecution. Claims 31-33, which depend from allowed claim 22 have been added to specify details as to the fatty acid L-ascorbic ester component (B).

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Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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